

LOGISTIC CORNER - Master Sgt. Shelly Gonsalves, S-4

Since arriving at Camp Liberty, Iraq, the S-4 section has struggled with how to complete a special project.

Although our Brigade Headquarters building is located across the street from the living quarters, getting to work is much more than just a walk across the street.

Soldiers have to walk a big loop around a canal, avoiding buses, cars and convoys. The idea of the command was to simply build a bridge across the canal.

This turned out to be easier said than done.

We put in a request for Kellogg, Brown and Root to build the bridge. They sent us to the engineers, who said we needed to hire a contractor. The estimate from the private contractors ranged from \$6,000 to \$12,000, way more than anyone was willing to fund.

It began to look like we were in a vicious circle with no resolution in sight.

Finally Lt. Col. Timothy Daugherty, our deputy commander, convinced the governor's cell to give the unit approval to build the bridge ourselves. Capt. Jerry Frimml, our logistics officer, already had a plan in place to make the project happen.

As soon as they had the approval, Frimml's team, comprised of 1st Lt. Maxwell Fuldauer, executive officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and Cpl. David Hite, also of HHB, immediately jumped into action.

Frimml had scouted out 20' pallets that the new water bottling company no longer needed. The bridge building crew also ended up getting some steel beams to place underneath the wooden structure for added protection.

The entire project cost the unit \$500.00 to complete, along with the sweat and labor of some motivated leaders. Soldiers now walk safely back and forth to the unit several times a day, now taking just minutes.

Sgt. Kurt Gullens had an interesting month. He was notified that he would be filling in as the Command Sergeant Major's driver. He said he thought "no problem," this should be easy.

What Gullens didn't know is that he would be working several more hours each day and that being a command driver isn't all its cracked up to be. He had to be available at any given moment and his tasks didn't only involve driving.

Gullens was extremely anxious to give the keys back at the end of his tasking.

Cpl. Sicily Eager also had a very exciting month. She was selected to be promoted to Sergeant.

The promotion ceremony was supposed to be the morning of April 1; however, due to mission requirements, the time continually changed. Finally we got everyone together and promoted her.

Eager quickly learned that being a sergeant was going to be more challenging than she had expected. Her responsibility and expectations from her leaders immediately increased. With the S-4 non-commissioned officer in-charge going on leave in just weeks, guess who her replacement would be?

Yes, Sgt. Eager would now have to fill the shoes of a Master Sgt. She is scrambling to ensure she knows everything she has to do to fulfill the role. What a way to break in one of the Army's newest sergeants, huh?

In the S4 section there never seems to be a dull moment and we definitely look forward to the challenges next month will bring.